

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed October 13, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-20 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 15, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended, claims 6, 8-14, and 20 have been canceled, and no claims have been newly added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7, and 15-19 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented. The text of all claims presently under examination is presented above in the listing of claims, and all claims are presented with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicants sincerely thank the examiner for indicating that claim 7 is allowed and claims 2-5, 11-13, and 16-18 contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants have placed claims 4, 5, and 16 in independent form and claims 17-18 depend therefrom. Therefore, claims 4, 5, and 16-18 are now in condition for allowance in accordance with the indication in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 8-10, 14, 15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,400,246 to Wilson et al. (hereafter "Wilson"). Claims 6, 8-14, and 20 have been canceled, making rejection of these claims moot (although claims 11-13 contain allowable subject matter). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection of independent claims 1, 15, and 19, insofar as it may be applied to the currently amended claims, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include most of the features that were previously recited in claim 2 and claim 3 (indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the office action) and these features are not believed to be disclosed by the applied prior art.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the following limitations:

"each of the alarm data having its alarm level representing the importance of the alarm data",

"alarm level threshold setting means for setting an alarm level threshold for display at the general control device, the alarm level threshold being decided depending upon importance of the alarm data in view of the general control device", and

"selecting means for selecting part of the alarm data based on the alarm level and the alarm level threshold".

These recited features are not disclosed or suggested by Wilson and, therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the applied prior art.

Furthermore, independent method claim 19 also recites analogous limitations and is therefore also patentable over the applied prior art.

These limitations are not disclosed by Wilson as acknowledged in the Office Action with respect to the originally filed claims 2 and 3.

Independent claim 15 also recites the following features that are not disclosed or suggested by Wilson:

"means for storing fixed data of the generation units for display at the general control device, the fixed data including shapes of unit icons representing the generation units; and display means for displaying the current unit state data including the unit icons at the general control device, the display means utilizing the stored fixed data, the display means including means for changing at least one out of shape, size and color of the displayed current unit state data, based on specification or the current unit state data of the generation units".

Nowhere does Wilson disclose a system that stores fixed data of generation units and stores *current* unit state data being supplied by the generation units, such that a display unit utilizes the stored fixed data and the changes the displayed current unit state data (by changing shape, size, or color) based on specification or current unit state data of the generation units. Accordingly, pending independent claim 15 is also believed to be patentable over the applied prior art.

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional features which are also patentable when considered as a whole.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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